

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 33-39, 43-45, 47, and 48 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 18, 25, 40 as follows.

1. - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving color image data from any of an image generating apparatus having a forgery judging function and an image generating apparatus not having a forgery judging function;

judging means for judging whether a color image composed of the color image data received by said receiving means is a specific image; and

output means for outputting the color image data so as to make an image forming unit form a color image by using the color image data received from said receiving means, wherein the image processing apparatus controls formation of the color image according to a result of judgment in the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function if the color image data is generated by the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function, and controls formation of the color image according to a result of judgment by said judging means if the color image data is generated by the image generating apparatus not having the forgery judging function.

10. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the image generating apparatus is a scanner or a digital camera.

11. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the specific image is a security such as a bank note, and a traveler's check.

12. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said judging means judges the color image data by pattern matching or color matching, or judges digital water mark information included in the color image.

13. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the image generating apparatus having a forgery judging function transmits a result of the forgery judgment ahead of the color image data.

14. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said receiving means receives the color image data via a network.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) An image processing method, comprising the steps of:

receiving color image data from any of an image generating apparatus having a forgery judging function and an image generating apparatus not having a forgery judging function;

judging whether a color image composed of the color image data received by said receiving step is a specific image; and

outputting the color image data so as to make an image forming unit form a color image by using the color image data received, wherein the image processing method further comprises the steps of controlling formation of the color image according to a result of judgment in the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function if the color image data is generated by the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function, and controlling formation of the color image according to a result of judgment by said judging step if the color image data is generated by the image generating apparatus not having the forgery judging function.

18. (Currently Amended) An image processing system that has a first apparatus inputting an image signal, and a second apparatus outputting an image by using the image signal, wherein said first apparatus comprises first judging means for comparing the image signal, read by said first apparatus, with data corresponding to a specific image,

wherein said second apparatus has second judging means for comparing the image signal with data corresponding to a specific image, and

wherein said first judging means in said first apparatus inputting the image signal performs judgment of a first kind of specific image and said second judging means in said second apparatus outputting the image signal performs judgment of ~~different~~

~~specific images~~ a second kind of specific image different from the first kind of specific image.

19. (Original) The image processing system according to claim 18, wherein the data corresponding to a specific image is pattern data.

20. (Original) The image processing system according to claim 18, wherein the data corresponding to a specific image is digital water mark data.

21-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The image processing system according to claim 18, wherein said first apparatus is a scanner, and said second apparatus is a printer.

25. (Currently Amended) An image processing method in an image processing system that has a first apparatus inputting an image signal, and a second apparatus outputting an image by using the image signal, said method comprising:

a first judging step of performing a first judgment of comparing the image signal, read by the first apparatus, with data corresponding to a specific image in the first apparatus; and

a second judging step of performing a second judgment of comparing the image signal with data corresponding to a specific image in the second apparatus,

wherein said first judgment performed in said first apparatus inputting the image signal performs judgment of a first kind of specific image and said second judgment performed in said second apparatus outputting the image signal performs judgment of different specific images a second kind of specific image different from the first kind of specific image.

26. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the data corresponding to a specific image is pattern data.

27. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the data corresponding to a specific image is digital water mark data.

28-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the first apparatus is a scanner, and the second apparatus is a printer.

32. (Previously Presented) The image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the data corresponding to a specific image is downloaded from a computer.

33 - 39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) An image processing method in an image processing system which comprises a first apparatus for inputting an image signal and a second apparatus for performing image output by using said image signal, said method comprising the steps of:

performing by the first apparatus a first judgment of comparing a read image signal and data according to a specific image, and performing by the second apparatus a second judgment of comparing said image signal with the data according to the specific image;

obtaining by the second apparatus information that is added to an image file and denotes whether it has been already judged whether the image file includes a specific image the first judgment has been performed, from the first apparatus; and

judging the image file on performing the second judgment for a specific image[s,] for which have the first judgment has not been judged performed yet, if the first judgment has been already performed, and judging the image file on performing the second judgment for the specific image[s,] which can be used for judgment, if no the first judgment has not been performed at all.

41. (Previously Presented) The image processing method according to claim 40, wherein the specific image is a security, and at least one of color, a pattern, and a digital water mark is used for the judgment.

42. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 40, wherein the information is protected.

43 - 45. (Cancelled)

46. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 40, wherein the image processing method is implemented by a printer driver.

47 - 63. (Cancelled)